



CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

DATE: March 13, 2012

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Jane Moore, Phil Coughlan, Bliss Moore, Elaine Ott, Ellen Moore, Jim Gawel, Carol Shiflett, Bill Anderson, Dale Anderson, Dan Dzyacky

COMMISSION MEMBER EXCUSED: Steven Garrett

OTHERS PRESENT: Kristi Lynett, Catherine Taylor

▪ **Approval of the February 14, 2012 Meeting Notes**

The February 14, 2012, meeting notes were approved and adopted.

▪ **Review of the March Agenda**

The March agenda was reviewed and approved.

▪ **Work Plan Update and Next Steps**

At the February meeting, it was discussed and decided that members would take individual responsibility for moving each work plan item forward, starting with the most high-priority items. Members presented their category updates and/or posed the next steps that will occur:

- Plastic bags: Research the pros/cons - environmental effects, political ramifications, lifecycle impacts, marine litter, etc. Phil will provide information regarding plastic bag legislation at a future meeting.
- South Downtown Dome (EIS): Currently holding stakeholder focus groups on environment/open space and transportation. Jane will be attending as lead on the planning work. The purpose of the focus groups is to obtain public opinion on south downtown conditions and opportunities.
- Backyard poultry: When members were speaking with Council on the subject of chickens, the question was raised about goats. More research is needed surrounding the prospect of allowing goats in Tacoma. Carol and Steve will take the lead on investigating as to what other municipalities have done; pros/cons.
- Green building plan: Dale will follow-up with BLUS staff; Phil will be working with BLUS on their green building implementations.
- Food waste program: The program will commence in April. Ongoing public education about the program will be rolled-out at the same time.
- Grant/funding: Bill and Phil will work as leads on grant/funding research; the goal is to bring in anywhere from \$25K to \$50K.
- Anti-idling: Awaiting receipt of the anti-idling tool kits from PSCAA. Dan will conduct general research on anti-idling policies of other jurisdictions.
- Community solar: Five proposals were received and reviewed. The City will award to all four sites: two police stations, police warehouse (old Costco building) and the new landfill transfer

station. A meeting has been scheduled with the City's real estate and legal departments to begin planning the lease agreement. Project completion is expected by year-end.

- Urban forestry: A lot is being moved ahead through the planning process on new codes, to encourage and/or require tree planting situations. The City's urban forester will give a presentation at the April meeting.
- Construction and demolition: BLUS staff will be assisting King County with the development of their voluntary certification program.
- Neighborhood Councils: In April, members will be speaking on sustainability at each of the nine neighborhood council committee meetings. Staff will provide a list of each of the council's April meeting dates/times and contact information.
- EOW: In January, with the implementation of every other week (EOW) garbage pick-up, door-to-door education and outreach has been helpful in educating residents about the new program. Staff will search for similar outreach/education opportunities for commercial customers.
- Green Partnership Funds: Members will do further research on this valuable funding source. The Green Partnership Fund is drawn from the Pierce Conservation District and administered by the Community Foundation, who manage and facilitate grant programs to help provide support to environmental projects.
- Climate adaptation: How is the City going to adapt their infrastructure (roads/buildings) around extreme weather events, flooding, snow melt changes, rainfall, etc.? When planning new infrastructure should the City be building differently? It was suggested to begin research with a state adaptation report. Another good resource is the EcoAdapt group, who assists governments/organizations figure out how to do what they do effectively in the face of climate change.

▪ **Staff Updates**

- Staff is developing a Wapato Sustainability Team, which includes members from Stormwater, Pierce Conservation District, Tacoma Water, Tacoma Power, Metro Parks, and PSCAA. The team met in late 2011 regarding the need for sustainability outreach in the Wapato neighborhood 1) Wapato Lake has definite water pollution issues; and 2) their air monitoring station is out of compliance. Staff will be requesting two AmeriCorps members for door-to-door knocking on approximately 2,000 homes, to plan/develop a Wapato Lake Sustainability Fair and to create other outreach programs.
- Sustainability Expo – The exit surveys with raffle prizes, worked out quite well; the workshops were well attended. Nearly 600 people were in attendance with 138 survey responses. Total cost was \$5K-\$6K.
- April 12 - The Chamber is having their 10th Annual Tahoma Environmental Business Award luncheon; nominations will be taken through March 26. Bill will speak on the BEST program and Rita of IERE will speak on lifecycle.
- Paper reduction (2009-2011): The Green Team's previous goal was for 25% paper reduction. They surpassed their goal at 75% paper reduction. A large part was reducing the City's printer fleet from 500+ desktop copiers to 130 multi-functional printers. The paper itself was a \$135K savings (15 million sheets reduced). Fuel reduction (2009-2011): The City avoided spending \$770K on fuel.
- The City's 2011 Sustainability Accomplishments brochure was distributed for member feedback and was well received by all.
- Potential May meeting presentation - John Garner of Metro Parks would like to give a presentation on Natural Resource Economies of Metro Parks Properties. The information originated from a report created for Metro Parks through Earth Economics.
- There are two Commission vacancies. The submission deadline for applications is March 15.

- **Public Comment**

There was no public comment

- **Objectives for Next Meeting**

- Complete Streets Implementation
- Urban Forestry Code Update

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Tuesday, April 10, 2012, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building North, 733 Market Street, Room 16.